Statement of Lands available for Assignment to Depressed Classes.

68. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a taluk-war statement of the lands available for registry and assignment to the depressed classes?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement † giving the required information is laid on the table.

Dr. P. J. Thomas's Claims to History Professorship.

69. MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any application has been received by them or the Director of Public Instruction from Dr. P. J. Thomas for an appointment in the Education Department?

(*b*) If so, was his application considered by the educational officers who were consulted in filling the vacancy in the History Section of His Highness the Maha Raja's College?

(*c*) What was their opinion of Dr. Thomas's claims as compared with those of other applicants for the vacant professorship?

(*d*) What were the qualifications, academic and otherwise, of Dr. P. J. Thomas and also the length of his service under Government?

(*e*) Was any assistance given by the Government to Dr. Thomas for prosecuting his studies in Europe?

(*f*) Will the Government consider his claims in connection with the present or any future vacancy that may arise in the Education Department?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) Yes; by the Director of Public Instruction.

(*b*) The Director reports that by an oversight his application was not considered.

(*c*) In the light of the answer to part (*b*), this question does not arise.

(*d*) (1) B. A. (Hon.) Degree of the Madras University (First Class);

(2) B. Litt. Degree of Oxford; and

(3) Oxford Educational Diploma with distinction.

He was in the service of this Government for about 3½ months on two different occasions as Ag. Tutor of History in His Highness the Maha Raja's College, Trivandrum.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) The Director will be asked to consider his application for a future vacancy.

† *Vide* appendix II—page 520.

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[President.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that this interpellation was sent up to Government about six months ago?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I do not know if it is six months old. That it is an old interpellation, I know.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that it was only after this interpellation was sent up to the Government that the vacancies of English Professorships were filled in the Arts College and in the Science College?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The question does not relate to any English Professorship at all. It relates only to the History section. Dr. Thomas qualified in History.

PRESIDENT: Your original question was whether a vacancy in the History section was filled up after the interpellation was sent.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Yes, Sir. I want to know whether it was not after this interpellation was sent that the vacancy of the History Professorship also was filled in the Arts College.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No permanent vacancy arose.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Even temporary?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): A temporary vacancy did arise.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In the matter of an English Literature man—

PRESIDENT: That does not arise out of this question and answer.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I am asking a supplementary question.

PRESIDENT: You cannot ask it, as it does not not arise out of the main question.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it only after this interpellation was sent to Government that the Director was addressed on the subject?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): On which subject?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): What I want to know is whether the oversight was brought to light only after the Government referred the question to the Director.

PRESIDENT: What question?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I refer to my interpellation.

PRESIDENT: Your interpellation was sent to him.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it after that that the Director reported that his application was not considered by oversight?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is it not a fact that Dr. P. J. Thomas has passed the highest examination both in History and in Literature?

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion. What is meant by 'highest'?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Is there anybody else who has passed such high examinations?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Where?

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): In Travancore.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is a matter of opinion as to what is the highest examination in a particular subject.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether there is a man with Doctorship of Literature, diploma of distinction and so on.

PRESIDENT: It is a matter of opinion as to which degree is better than which degree.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I want to know whether any other man has all these high degrees.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): There are ever so many men with very high degrees in the English department and it is not possible to compare their degrees with those of Dr. Thomas and make a pronouncement.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are Government aware that Dr. Thomas has taken service under the Ceylon Government?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Government have no direct information.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Any indirect information?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, they have.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Does it not mean that the service of a son of the soil has been lost to the State?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Not always.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Are Government aware that there is only one Roman Catholic in the Arts and Science Colleges?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

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[Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.]

PRESIDENT: Are you sure that he is the only Roman Catholic?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes, Sir; he is the only Roman Catholic in the two Colleges referred to.

Beggar Problem in Travancore.

70. MR. P. T. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): (*a*) How many beggars are there in the State?

(*b*) How many of them are born subjects of His Highness the Maha Raja, and how many outsiders?

(*c*) How many of these are able-bodied men fit to work, and how many unable to earn their livelihood on account of physical infirmities, diseases, etc.?

(*d*) Are not the Government aware that these beggars are wandering from house to house causing nuisance to the public?

(*e*) Where do these beggars live? Have the Government made any provision for housing these poor people?

(*f*) Do the Government know that many of them die miserably on the streets and roads?

(*g*) Will the Government be pleased to introduce a Bill prohibiting professional beggary and the immigration of beggars into Travancore, and laying down measures for the alleviation of the miseries of *bonâ fide* beggars?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The total number of beggars including vagrants, witches, wizards, etc., is 5,770, as per the census of 1921.

(*b*) and (*c*) Government have no information.

(*d*) Some beggars do so.

(*e*) Government have no information as to their abodes. Government have made no special provision for their accommodation.

(*f*) Government have no information.

(*g*) Government do not propose to undertake any such legislation at present.

Examination Qualifications for Government Service.

71. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur cum Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they consider the Vernacular Higher and the Vernacular School Leaving Examinations as equal in value for preference and promotions in the public service;

(*b*) whether all those who have passed the Vernacular Higher Examination are started on the same pay in the Education Department; and

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